

**Regional Forum on Sustainable Infrastructure
With Emphasis on Sustainable Streets and Streetscapes
Thursday May 13, 2004
10:00 – 4:30
Key Tower 4050
700 5th Avenue
Seattle, WA**

Purpose of Forum

1. Increase awareness of sustainable infrastructure activities and programs in Vancouver, Seattle, and Portland by providing a broad overview of programs in each City.
2. Identify further opportunities to jointly leverage resources between the three Cities.
3. Serve as a foundation for future work between the Cities on a peer-to-peer basis
4. Discuss and identify major technical and implementation issues related to sustainable streets and streetscapes in urban areas.

Agenda with Proposed Questions to Guide Discussion

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome/Introductions (Mike Cox, Seattle, Moderator)

10:15 – 11:00 Panel Discussion: Overview of Sustainability Programs (Matt Emlen, Portland, Moderator)

- Mark Holland, Sustainability Manager, Vancouver BC
- Kim Drury, Strategic Advisor, Office of Sustainability, Seattle
- Rob Bennett, Program Manager, Office of Sustainable Development, Portland

Proposed Questions for Session

1. What are the major sustainability initiatives and policies in your City?
2. How is your sustainability program structured or governed?
3. What are some examples of successful projects in your City and what are some of the biggest challenges implementing projects?
4. Do you have a specific program for designing, constructing, and maintaining sustainable streets and streetscapes?

11:00 – 11:15 Reinventing Streets – The Challenge of the 21st Century

- Mark Holland, Sustainability Manager, City of Vancouver, BC

This presentation will be a short “statement of the challenge” to us all about perspectives on the role and issues around streets in the 21st century, addressing function, materials, program, costs, linkages with parks and open space, and other issues. Its goal is to set the stage for the afternoon discussions.

11:15 – 11:30 Overview of sustainable street programs in other cities

- Gabriel Scheer, University of Washington

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch – Bring in

12:30 – 1:30 Technical breakout groups (concurrent): Questions provided to guide discussion

Session 1: Overall Design of Sustainable Streets in Urban Areas (Mark Holland, Vancouver, Facilitator)

1. What are key issues for a longer term vision of what streets need to be in a sustainable City, with an eye to a 50-100 timeline (include future directions for utilities – trends, requirements, etc)
2. What are high priority economic, utility, social and environmental objectives for our streets – and their correlative benefits?
3. What are some key characteristics of more sustainable streets (typology referenced) (e.g., dimensions of alternative streets, paving materials, curbs/gutters, landscaping, programming of street area for various purposes, and integration with surrounding areas – parks, private yards, public plazas)
4. What methods have worked in the past to address multiple objectives (social, environmental, economic, etc) in street design?
5. What are the areas for further collaboration among the three cities?

Session 2: Maintenance of sustainable streets in urban areas (Matt Emlen, Portland, Facilitator)

1. What are the biggest maintenance challenges you face with sustainable streets?
2. How are you funding/budgeting for maintenance of the green features of streetscapes?
3. How are maintenance people and maintenance issues involved in the design process?
4. What are you learning about:
 - a. Durability and maintenance issues of sustainable street designs and materials
 - b. The equipment required to maintain sustainable streets
5. What are the roles of the city and community partners in maintaining sustainable streetscapes?
6. What are the areas for further collaboration among the three cities?

Session 3: Public right-of-way considerations in urban areas (Mike Cox, Seattle, Facilitator)

1. How do City departments balance the competing needs for space in the public right-of-way (e.g., sidewalks, streets, bike lanes, landscaping, water, sewer, electric)?
2. How do City departments work with private developers to ensure the best use of the public right-of-way and surrounding area?
3. What role does the public play in deciding on the proper use of the public right-of-way?
4. What are the areas for further collaboration among the three cities?

1:30 – 2:00 Report out from break out groups

2:00 – 2:15 Break

2:15 – 3:15 Implementation Breakout Groups (concurrent): Questions provided to guide discussion

Session 1: Politics and Public Support for Alternative Streets (Mark Holland, Vancouver, Facilitator)

1. What public and political processes have been successful in our cities for alternative streets?
2. How did the public respond to various ideas?
 - First ideas (brought it up, drove it in back yard, fought it, etc...)
 - How did the new ideas get “introduced”
 - Discussion on design
 - Role of neighborhood groups / advisors
3. What communications strategies were successful or unsuccessful in general or on key issues (what worked or didn’t)?
 - How were “benefits” used to sell the new idea?
 - What attractive “names” are being used to describe the streets?
4. What were the internal politics within City Hall / departments around alternatives streets and how were they dealt with successfully?
 - Politicians, Engineers, Planners, Parks, Law Dept, and Environmental
5. What are the areas for further collaboration among the three cities?

Session 2: Barriers/benefits/incentives for sustainable streets (Mike Cox, Seattle, Facilitator)

1. What are the major barriers to the construction of sustainable streets?
2. What are the benefits to the City and community in constructing sustainable streets?

3. What incentives does the City offer to promote and encourage the design and construction of sustainable streets (e.g., financial, regulatory flexibility, bonuses)?
4. What are the areas for further collaboration among the three cities?

Session 3: Fostering Innovation (Matt Emlen, Portland, Facilitator)

1. What tools are you using to guide project teams toward sustainable design?
 - a. Which sustainable design elements are required and which are voluntary?
 - b. Is this primarily an internal discussion or something you're working on with the private sector?
 - c. Are you working on new codes?
2. What sort of sustainable street demonstration projects is your city pursuing?
 - a. What scale are these projects?
 - b. How are they funded?
 - c. What are you learning from these projects?
3. What are the areas for further collaboration among the three cities?

3:15 – 3:45 Report out

3:45 – 4:30 Wrap up/Questionnaire/Topics for Next Forum